POL 14 VIETS

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UNCLAS SAIGON 2746

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PHAM HUY CO

PHAM HUY CO STATED THAT HE "ADVOCATED A FIGHT TO THE END BECAUSE PEACE CAN ONLY BE RESTORED WHEN THE COMMUNISTS ARE COMPLETELY DEFEATED," ACCORDING TO A VIETNAM PRESS (EVENING ENGLISH EDITION) AUGUST 8) REPORT OF CO'S REMARKS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 7. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE "WELCOMED THE PRESENCE OF US TROOPS" AND THAT A "SPECIAL STATUS" FOR US TROOPS IS "NOT NECESSARY." TEXT OF VIETNAM PRESS (VP) REPORT FOLLOWS:

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QUOTE OPENING THE QUESTION PERIOD, DR. CO STRESSED THAT HE DETERMINEDLY OPPOSED THE NEGOTIATION STAND AND THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE WAR OF THE TRUONG DINH DZU, PHAN KHAC SUU, NGUYEN VAN THIEU, TRAN VAN HUONG SLATES.

HE ADDED THAT HE ADVOCATED A FIGHT TO THE END BECAUSE PEACE CAN

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ONLY BE RESTORED WHEN THE COMMUNISTS ARE COMPLETELY DEFEATED. ACCORDING TO HIM, THOSE WHO WANT TO CONTACT, ARRANGE, NEGOTIATE, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, WITH COMMUNIST NORTH VIETNAM OR THE VC HAVE COMMITTED TREASON AGAINST THE FATHERLAND.

IN REPLY TO A VP REPORTER'S QUESTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY MEASURES AND POLITICAL MEASURES IN THE VIETNAM WAR, DR. CO SAID BOTH TYPES OF MEASURES ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT. HOWEVER, IT IS NECESSARY TO PUSH FORWARD THE MILITARY EFFORT TO WIN THE FINAL VICTORY.

ASKED ABOUT HIS SLATE'S OPPOSITION VIS-A-VIS THE PRESENCE OF THE AMERICANS IN VIETNAM, DR. CO SAID THAT HE WELCOMED THE PRESENCE OF US TROOPS SINCE THEY ARE SACRIFICING THEMSELVES FOR A JUST CAUSE. HE STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD GIVE UP THEIR COMPLEXES TOWARD THE AMERICANS. HE REPEATED MANY TIMES THAT HE DEMANDED THE STATIONING OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN VIETNAM EVEN AFTER THE END OF THE WAR.

ASKED WHETHER THE "HOA LU" (TYPE OF FLOWER) SLATE REQUIRES THE SUPPORT OF WASHINGTON OR NOT, DR. CO SAID THAT HE IS RUNNING IN THE ELECTION IN HIS CAPACITY AS A CITIZEN, AND HIS STAND TOWARDS THE USA IS ALSO THAT OF ALL VIETNAMESE VOTERS HE HAD MET.

TO A QUESTION ON THE SLATE'S STAND CONCERNING THE GOVERNMENT TREATMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN CENTRAL VIETNAM SUNDAY, LAWYER LY QUOC SINH (CO'S RUNNING MATE) MADE KNOWN THAT HIS SLATE HAD NO COMPLAINT AS TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE HELD THAT THE CANDIDATES HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE FOR THEMSELVES THE NECESSARY MEANS OF AN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, IF THERE WERE ONE VIETNAMESE-ON THE THREE TRUCKS ASSIGNED TO DRIVE THE CANDIDATES FROM DONG HA (TO QUANG TRI) SUNDAY, THE CANDIDATES WOULDN'T HAVE HESITATED TO GO. END QUOTE BUNKER

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